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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,728	06/19/2001	Clifford J. Dwyer	CRD-0940	3625
27777	7590	07/23/2004	EXAMINER	
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003				MILLER, CHERYL L
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3738		

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/884,728	Dwyer et al.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Cheryl Miller	3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-9 and 11-15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-9 and 11-15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/24/04, 6/1/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed January 26, 2004, that the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-7 as being unpatentable over Wilson (US 6,425,898) in view of Truckai (US 5,176,660) and the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 8-9 and 11-15 as being unpatentable over Wilson (US 6,425,898) in view of Kocak (US 4,705,511) are invalid, since Wilson was used as a 102(e) date, and a statement was provided by the applicant, that the Wilson patent and the current invention were commonly owned at the time the invention was made. These arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-15 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the self-expanding stent" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Although a self-expanding stent is mentioned in the preamble, it is mentioned as intended use language, therefore, a self-expanding stent has not yet been positively claimed. It is suggested to change "the self-expanding stent" to recite --a self-expanding stent--. Claims 2 and 4-7 depend upon claim 1 and inherit all problems associated with the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the self-expanding stent" in lines 5-6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Although a self-expanding stent is mentioned in the preamble, it is mentioned as intended use language, therefore, a self-expanding stent has not yet been positively claimed. It is suggested to change "the self-expanding stent" to recite --a self-expanding stent--. Claims 9 and 11-15 depend upon claim 1 and inherit all problems associated with the claim.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 4 recites, "The delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent according to claim 4". It is improper for a claim to depend upon itself. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al. (EP 1 025 813) in view of Gerdts (US 6,689,120 B1). Referring to claim 1, Wilson discloses a delivery apparatus (1) for a self-expanding stent (50) comprising a shaft (10) having a guidewire lumen (28), a stent bed (24), a sheath (40) having an enlarged section (44) coaxial with the stent bed, the sheath (40) including an inner polymeric layer (48), an outer polymeric layer (72), and a wire reinforcement layer (70). Wilson discloses a delivery apparatus with a wire reinforced sheath substantially as claimed, wherein the wires may have cross-sectional

shapes other than circular (col.10, lines 13-16), however does not explicitly disclose rectangular shaped cross sections. Gerdts teaches in the same field of self-expanding stent delivery apparatuses (16), a sheath (18) having a wire reinforcement layer (44) with rectangular cross-sections as an alternative to circular, in order to increase the stiffness of the sheath to prevent kinking, while also minimizing the profile for easy insertion (col.3, lines 1-10; col.5, lines 49-65; col.7, lines 28-42). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Wilson's wire reinforced sheath with Gerdts's geometric teaching of using flat *rectangular* wires within the sheaths, in order to provide reinforcement to prevent kinking while also minimizing profile for easy delivery.

Referring to claim 2, Wilson discloses a reinforcement layer (70), which extends between the inner and outer layers (fig.8).

Referring to claim 4, Wilson discloses wires made of stainless steel (col.9, lines 40-41) and having any dimension (col.10, lines 13-16).

Referring to claim 5, Wilson has shown a wire arranged in a braided configuration (fig.8; col.9, lines 27-31).

Referring to claims 6 and 7, Wilson discloses an inner polymeric layer comprising PTFE and an outer layer comprising NYLON (col.9, lines 37-41; col.10, lines 49-51).

It is noted to the applicant, that the above Wilson patent qualifies and is being used based on a 102(a) date, therefore may be used in a 103 rejection, even though they may have been commonly owned at the time the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raeder-Devens et al. (US 6,726,712 B1) in view of Gerdts (US 6,689,120 B1). Referring to claims 1 and 8, Raeder-Devens discloses a delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent (col.3, lines 26-29) comprising a shaft (40) having a guidewire lumen (fig.2), a stent bed (42), a sheath (18) having an enlarged section (larger diameter at distal end than at medial or proximal end, col.4, lines 28-34; col.5, lines 65-69; col.6, lines 4-6, 22-25) coaxial with the stent bed, the sheath (18) including an inner polymeric layer (46), a lubricious coating on the inner polymeric layer (col.5, lines 32-36), an outer polymeric layer (48+50+52), and a wire reinforcement layer (34). Raeder-Devens discloses a delivery apparatus with a wire reinforced sheath substantially as claimed, however does not disclose rectangular shaped wires. Gerdts teaches in the same field of self-expanding stent delivery apparatuses (16), a sheath (18) having a wire reinforcement layer (44) with rectangular cross-sections as an alternative to circular, in order to increase the stiffness of the sheath to prevent kinking, while also minimizing the profile for easy insertion (col.3, lines 1-10; col.5, lines 49-65; col.7, lines 28-42). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Raeder-Devens wire reinforced sheath with Gerdts's geometric teaching of using flat *rectangular* wires within the sheaths, in order to provide reinforcement to prevent kinking while also minimizing profile for easy delivery.

Referring to claims 2 and 9, Raeder-Devens discloses a reinforcement layer (34), which extends between the inner (46) and outer (48) layers (fig.2).

Referring to claims 4 and 11, Raeder-Devens discloses wires made of stainless steel and having any dimension (col.5, lines 39-47).

Referring to claims 5 and 12, Raeder-Devens has shown a wire (34) arranged in a braided configuration (fig.2; col.5, lines 39-41).

Referring to claims 6-7 and 13-15, Raeder-Devens discloses an inner polymeric layer comprising PTFE (col.5, lines 14-16, 31-34), an outer layer comprising NYLON (col.5, lines 53-56; col.6, lines 31-39), and a coating comprising silicone (col.5, lines 33-37).

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duerig et al. (US 6,287,329 (B1) in view of Gerdts (US 6,689,120 B1). Referring to claim 1, Duerig discloses a delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent (col.1, lines 5-9) comprising a shaft (510) having a guidewire lumen (fig.9), a stent bed, a sheath (540) having an enlarged section (542; col.6, lines 56-67; col.7, lines 5-10) coaxial with the stent bed, the sheath (540) including an inner polymeric layer, an outer polymeric layer, and a wire reinforcement layer (sheath 540 being equivalent to sheath 40, col.5, lines 14-29). Duerig discloses a delivery apparatus with a wire reinforced sheath substantially as claimed, however does not disclose rectangular shaped wires. Gerdts teaches in the same field of self-expanding stent delivery apparatuses (16), a sheath (18) having a wire reinforcement layer (44) with rectangular cross-sections as an alternative to circular, in order to increase the stiffness of the sheath to prevent kinking, while also minimizing the profile for easy insertion (col.3, lines 1-10; col.5, lines 49-65; col.7, lines 28-42). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Duerig's wire reinforced sheath with Gerdts's geometric teaching of using flat *rectangular* wires within the sheaths, in order to provide reinforcement to prevent kinking while also minimizing profile for easy delivery.

Referring to claim 2, Duerig discloses a reinforcement layer, which extends between the inner and outer layers (fig.9; col.5, lines 13-29).

Referring to claim 4, Duerig discloses wires made of stainless steel and having any dimension (col.5, lines 13-29).

Referring to claim 5, Duerig discloses a wire arranged in a braided configuration (fig.9; col.5, lines 13-29).

Referring to claims 6-7, Duerig discloses an inner polymeric layer comprising PTFE, and an outer layer comprising NYLON (col.5, lines 13-29).

Claims 8, 9, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duerig et al. (US 6,287,329 (B1) in view of Gerdts (US 6,689,120 B1) and Raeder-Devens et al. (US 6,726,713 B1). Referring to claims 8 and 15, Duerig discloses a delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent (col.1, lines 5-9) comprising a shaft (510) having a guidewire lumen (fig.9), a stent bed, a sheath (540) having an enlarged section (542; col.6, lines 56-67; col.7, lines 5-10) coaxial with the stent bed, the sheath (540) including an inner polymeric layer, an outer polymeric layer, and a wire reinforcement layer (sheath 540 being equivalent to sheath 40, col.5, lines 14-29). Duerig discloses a delivery apparatus with a composite outer sheath with a wire reinforcement layer substantially as claimed, however does not disclose rectangular shaped wires and does not disclose a coating on the inner polymeric layer. Gerdts teaches in the same field of self-expanding stent delivery apparatuses (16), a composite sheath (18) having a wire reinforcement layer (44) with rectangular cross-sections as an alternative to circular, in order to increase the stiffness of the sheath to prevent kinking, while also minimizing the profile for easy

insertion (col.3, lines 1-10; col.5, lines 49-65; col.7, lines 28-42). Raeder-Devens also teaches in the same field of self-expanding stent delivery apparatuses, use of a silicone coating on an inner polymeric layer of composite sheaths, in order to provide a lubricious, low friction surface adjacent the stent, in order to facilitate easy of displacement (col. 5, lines 33-37; col.7, lines 18-20). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Duerig's wire reinforced sheath with Gerdts's geometric teaching of using flat *rectangular* wires within the sheaths, in order to provide reinforcement to prevent kinking while also minimizing profile for easy delivery and Raeder-Devens teaching of providing a silicone coating on the inner polymeric layer, in order to provide a lubricious, low friction surface adjacent the stent, in order to facilitate easy of displacement.

Referring to claim 9, Duerig discloses a reinforcement layer, which extends between the inner and outer layers (fig.9; col.5, lines 13-29).

Referring to claim 11, Duerig discloses wires made of stainless steel and having any dimension (col.5, lines 13-29).

Referring to claim 12, Duerig discloses a wire arranged in a braided configuration (fig.9; col.5, lines 13-29).

Referring to claims 13-14, Duerig discloses an inner polymeric layer comprising PTFE, and an outer layer comprising NYLON (col.5, lines 13-29).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Miller whose telephone number is (703) 305-2812. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached on 308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cheryl Miller



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